



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: PUBLIC DESERVES TO KNOW WHEN MAYOR SKIPS TOWN

Today, the Executive Matters Committee passed out Bill 45, introduced by Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki to Hawaii Kai), which would require the Mayor to give notice to the City Clerk whenever he intends to leave the state. Under the City Charter, the Managing Director, an un-elected official, holds executive power in the absence of the Mayor.

“The Mayor has every right to travel, but the people of Honolulu have a right to know when the Mayor intends to leave the Managing Director, who is not elected, in charge of Honolulu,” stated Djou.

“The President of the United States notifies Congress whenever he hands power to the Vice-President, an elected official. Similarly, the Governor of Hawaii posts notice when she leaves the state and hands power to the Lieutenant Governor, who is also an elected official. Requiring the Mayor to let the people know when the City’s executive branch of government is in the hands of an un-elected official is not unreasonable.”

In 2004 to date, the Mayor has spent over 100 days away from Hawaii on trips to the mainland and several foreign countries, including Colorado, Washington, D.C., Hong Kong, Australia, Chile and Saipan. Earlier this year, Mayor Harris’ frequent absence from Hawaii created confusion in city government when he attempted to veto a bill while traveling.

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